

The Crucible, Act I, by Arthur Miller
Selection Test B

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- ___ 1. What is Reverend Parris upset about at the opening of Act I?
A. rumors of witchcraft circulating in the community
B. Abigail's dismissal from the Proctor household
C. his daughter's condition and the possible connection to her inappropriate activities in the woods
D. Tituba's influence over the children
- ___ 2. From the comments of Parris in Act I, his concern for his daughter seems primarily based on his
A. anxiety about his reputation.
B. fear for the fate of her soul.
C. great love for his only child.
D. terror of the Devil.
- ___ 3. In Act I, how does Reverend Parris's belief in the supernatural affect his response to his daughter's illness?
A. He refuses to send for a doctor.
B. He professes his faith that God will heal her.
C. He seeks help from Reverend Hale.
D. He believes Abigail's assertion that Betty was not bewitched.
- ___ 4. What can be inferred from Act I about the attitude of Puritans toward their slaves?
A. They saw their slaves as equals in God's sight.
B. They saw their slaves as being only a step removed from paganism.
C. They feared and mistrusted their slaves.
D. They treated their slaves as valued members of the household.
- ___ 5. Thomas Putnam's attitude toward Reverend Parris is one of
A. mistrust.
B. respect.
C. pity.
D. contempt.
- ___ 6. This passage is from the background information at the opening of Act I. For what detail that comes out later in Act I does this information prepare you?
Long-held hatreds of neighbors could now be openly expressed, and vengeance taken, despite the Bible's charitable injunctions. Land-lust which had been expressed before by constant bickering over boundaries and deeds, could now be elevated to the arena of morality . . .
A. Putnam arguing with Proctor about a piece of land to which both men lay claim
B. Reverend Parris complaining about his salary
C. Abigail's reluctance to tell the truth about what happened in the woods
D. Abigail's dismissal from service in the Proctor household

- ___ 7. How does Mrs. Putnam justify sending Ruth to Tituba?
- A. Tituba promised to revive Mrs. Putnam's dead children.
 - B. Mrs. Putnam didn't think a little foolish "conjuring" would do any harm.
 - C. Mrs. Putnam thought it might help Ruth, who seemed to be ailing.
 - D. Mrs. Putnam feels she deserves to know why she has had to endure the deaths of seven children.
- ___ 8. Mrs. Putnam's comments suggest that her primary motivation in hunting for witches is
- A. anger at having lost her children.
 - B. compassion for the two sick girls.
 - C. curiosity about the mysterious events in the woods.
 - D. resentment of Reverend Parris.
- ___ 9. Which phrase best describes Abigail Williams's character?
- A. impulsive and thoughtless
 - B. naive and timid
 - C. proud and manipulative
 - D. affectionate and vulnerable
- ___ 10. From the scene in which the girls are alone, what can be inferred as the basis of Abigail's influence over the other girls?
- A. her beauty and cleverly crafted purity
 - B. her social position as the minister's niece
 - C. her charm and magnetic persuasiveness
 - D. her use of her early experiences to terrorize them
- ___ 11. Which word best describes John Proctor's words and actions in Act I?
- A. compassionate
 - B. devout
 - C. independent
 - D. shrewd
- ___ 12. Considering Tituba's state of mind when she began naming names, what can you infer about her motivation?
- A. She was afraid of Reverend Hale and thought naming names would save her from punishment.
 - B. She actually saw Goody Good and Goody Osburn in the forest and wanted to tell the truth.
 - C. She was confused and was talking about a dream she once had.
 - D. She didn't like the women she named, and she hoped they'd be punished.

- ___ 13. Given this piece of information from the stage directions, what can readers conclude about Tituba's behavior at the end of Act I?
- She enters as one does who can no longer bear to be barred from the sight of her beloved, but she is also very frightened because her slave sense has warned her that, as always, trouble in this house eventually lands on her back.*
- A. Tituba is so fond of Betty that she'll try anything to help her.
 - B. Tituba is actually in love with Reverend Parris and confesses to keep him out of trouble.
 - C. Tituba's "slave sense" is what got her and the girls into trouble in the first place.
 - D. She is so sure that trouble will befall her that she plays along with Hale as he pushes her for information.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 14. Abigail has an "endless capacity for dissembling," which means
- A. she is a destructive person.
 - B. she is very quick to get at the heart of a matter.
 - C. she frequently conceals her true motives from those around her.
 - D. she is able to keep track of the different stories she tells to different people.
- ___ 15. Choose the sentence in which the italicized pronoun is correct.
- A. Mary Warren is bolder than *her*.
 - B. Abigail fears the actions of Mercy and *she*.
 - C. Parris blames and mistrusts Betty and *her*.
 - D. Mr. Putnam is more eager than *them* to cry witchcraft.

Essay

16. What kind of man is Reverend Parris? What does Miller reveal about him, both through background information and dialogue? How do Parris's nature and background affect his response to issues and situations in Act I? Answer these questions in an essay, and cite examples of Parris's actions and the motivations behind them.
17. The root of the conflict in Act I is Reverend Parris's discovery of Tituba and the girls in the woods on the night before the action in the play begins. In an essay, trace the pieces of information that are revealed about the scene in the woods. Who did what and who saw what? How and when are pieces of information revealed to the reader and for what reasons? Finally, explain why you think Miller reveals all information about the activities in the woods through dialogue, not through background information. How and why is his method effective?
18. Miller provides extensive background information about the community of Salem as well as about its residents. What is the community like? What are the inhabitants like? How do they interact with one another? What are their beliefs? Explain how the atmosphere of Salem and the nature of its residents lend themselves to the situation that develops in Act I. How does the information Miller provides add meaning to the reading of the play? Answer these questions in an essay.